

those we entrust to expand the minds of our children, our teachers.

Ruth Ann was the embodiment of excellence and enthusiasm. She inspired her students and colleagues. She was what every parent would want for their children—a person with great ability, who loved children and enriched their lives and shaped their future and, in turn, our country's future.

Her love of politics was a joy to behold. She was a leader—by example, by conviction, by courage, and by extraordinary competence.

Ruth Ann Hall was, in sum, one of those very special people who make a difference. She was a good and decent person, whose goals and ideals motivated her actions. I extend my deepest sympathy to Ruth Ann's husband, Bob; her parents George and Anna Collier, her brother George Collier, Jr., her son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Laura Ann Johnson, and her granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Eryn Johnson. Ruth Ann Hall will be remembered as an outstanding teacher, a loving wife and mother, and a very special friend to all who knew her.

HONORING LEIGH MORRIS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, there is a common question asked in theoretical science that has also become part of the political lexicon. And I think I have the answer. The question is "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" The answer is "Leigh Morris."

I say this because Leigh is both. He has been a tireless worker for our community and a vortex of organized activity to advance health care quality. And he has also been a stoic, standing rock-solid in his insistence on excellence, community participation and vision for the future.

Although we consider Leigh our own in northern Indiana, he is nationally recognized for his expertise and abilities in health care management and planning. I must also add that Leigh is equally well-known for his grace, courtesy and intellect.

Leigh Morris has served in his capacity as President of LaPorte Hospital, which is now known as the LaPorte Hospital Regional Health System, for twenty-one years. His stewardship at the helm has steered through some very rough times, and some very good ones. And he will be leaving at a time of very positive growth and success. We will know in the future that the good health of our hospital system was due in part to Leigh's planning and foresight.

Although his dedication to the LaPorte Hospital is the counterpiece of Leigh's career, he will also be remembered for his leadership at the Indiana Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association. He has brought his unique vision to hospitals, administrators and providers throughout the nation, and I know they are as grateful for his gifts as we Hoosiers are.

Mr. Speaker, Leigh has impacted our community in many ways beyond the health care system. He has been involved in other quality of life issues, fighting for superior education,

pulling for economic development, laboring to bring enriching cultural experiences to our citizens, young and old.

Many have expressed concern that we are somehow "losing" Leigh Morris due to his retirement. I think otherwise. Leigh is not leaving us, rather he enters a new chapter in his life. I know that he will find new and interesting ways to bring added life and zest to our community: in health care, in business and in all ways. I am pleased to be able to join his wife Marcia and his family in sharing the pride and admiration I know they must feel at this important time.

Mr. Speaker, some among us are leaders, some are healers, and some are teachers. Leigh Morris is all of these. He has preserved the health of so many, kindled the imagination of more, and inspired everyone. For all he has done, he deserves recognition and reward.

For who he is, his own work was reward enough.

13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all girls and women who participate in sports by recognizing the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, February 4, 1999.

This year's theme, "All Girls Allowed," reminds us we all should have an equal chance to participate in sports regardless of gender. In my youth women were discouraged from team sports and were looked down upon if active in an individual sport. "All Girls Allowed" characterizes how far we've come. But there is more to do. This day grants us a special time to remember past and current achievements, and reflect on the continuing struggle for equality in sports.

In 1987, a Congressional Resolution created National Girls and Women in Sports Day to celebrate the achievements of Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman and to recognize her work to assure equality for women's sports. Today we take this day to celebrate the achievements of all girls and women in sports. Communities such as mine around the country observe this day with events, luncheons, awards banquets, and parades.

We can all call to mind significant women in sports who have paved the way for others including the high-profile tennis match when Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs, or the recent emergency of the Women's National Basketball Association. Because of the leadership of these women, there are more sports opportunities today than there were 25 years ago. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination from extra-curricular activities—including sports—in federally assisted education programs. One in three girls in high school now participate in athletics. As a former educator, I have seen firsthand the value athletics has played in building self-esteem, establishing confidence and leadership skills in young women.

In the 5th District, the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) is sponsoring a luncheon to honor local girls and

women that have achieved significant goals in sports. WIN for KC was established to promote sports participation opportunities and recognition for girls and women in the Greater Kansas City area. Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics Shannon Miller will deliver the keynote address to encourage and support fellow athletes. This year's Kansas City award winners include Heather Burroughs for USA Track and Field, Janet Calandro for Spirit, Peggy Donovan for Senior Sportswoman of the Year, Linda Jones for Coach of the Year, Jean Nearing for Physically Challenged Sports-woman of the Year, Lauren Powers for Courage, and Jennifer Waterman for Mentor of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 13th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, congratulate every individual for their dedication and efforts, and thank them for paving the way for other women.

THE HAWAII FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE AD- JUSTMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to adjust the State of Hawaii's Federal medical assistance percentage [FMAP] rate. The intent of this bill is to more fairly reflect the ability of the state to bear its share of Medicaid payments. I am happy to have my colleague, Representative PATSY MINK, as a cosponsor of this measure. I am also pleased that our Hawaii Senators, Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DANIEL INOUE, have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, S. 264.

The FMAP, or Federal share of the medical assistance expenditures under each state's Medicaid program, is determined annually by a formula that compares a state's average per capita income level with the national income average. States with a higher per capita income level are reimbursed a smaller share of their Medicaid costs. By law, the FMAP cannot be lower than 50 percent nor higher than 83 percent. In 1997, the FMAPs varied from 50 percent to 77.2 percent, with Hawaii receiving the lowest 50 percent rate.

Alaska was another state receiving the lowest FMAP rate in 1997. However, in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, a provision increasing Alaska's FMAP rate to 59.8 percent for the next 3 years was included. Language in the Balanced Budget Act also mentioned that the same conditions warranting an increase in Alaska's FMAP rate applied to the State of Hawaii. The legislation that I am introducing today would conform Hawaii's rate with Alaska's. This bill would increase Hawaii's FMAP rate from 50 percent to 59.8 percent.

The rationale for the FMAP change is quite simple. Hawaii's high cost of living skews the per capita income determining factor. Based on 1995 United States Census data, the cost of living in Honolulu is 83 percent higher than the average of the metropolitan areas. More recent studies have shown that for the state as a whole, the cost of living is more than one-third higher than the rest of the United States. In fact, Hawaii's Cost of Living Index